

Letters

Although Dennis Leatart has already solved his own mystery (Ghost Riders), we thought that the information contained in the following letter would be of interest to many of our readers. Ed.

Editor
APRO Bulletin

Dear Madam/Sir

re "Ghost Riders Through the Gates of Hercules" (APRO Bull Aug 1977). I think that the objects seen by Mr. Leatart were almost certainly artificial manmade satellites for the following reasons.

Currently orbiting the earth, there are about 10,000 man made objects launched from earth, about half of these are artificial satellites, launched for research or military purposes, mainly by the Russians and Americans. The other half are the final stages of the rockets that launched them. There is so much "junk" up there that the UK has a military communication system arranged to use it to reflect signals between parts of the earth's surface that are over the horizon to each other. In radar studies of the junk, it was discovered that the rocket casings in particular glint at regular periods of 1 to 10 seconds. These rockets are typically cylindrical and 10 meters long by 2 meters diameter. Because of their widely differing moments of inertia about the three axes, and the asymmetric, even if small forces of aerodynamic and electromagnetic drag, they settle down after a few months of launching to this slow tumbling motion. This is because rotation about the axis of largest moment of inertia allows the lowest energy for a given angular momentum.

Calculating the statistical probability of sighting one of these objects through a telescope exactly is complicated. A simple approximation shows the rough order of frequency of sightings of junk. The number of pieces, if spread over an arc from pole to pole is enough to give a separation of about one mile between pieces. Their orbiting height above the earth's surface is typically a few hundred miles. If we take two of our hypothetical pieces of junk one mile apart at a height of say 600 miles, then they will appear about 0.1 degrees apart to a ground observer. The orbital periods are typically about 90 minutes, so putting the numbers together suggest that an observer with a telescope having a field of view of 0.1 degree will see a piece of space junk about every couple of hours. This will be true wherever the telescope is pointed, be it at Jupiter, the Moon, or M13, as the orbits of the junk are at all sorts of inclinations.

At night the space junk is unilluminated and so is invisible, and in the day, the sky is too bright to see them. The only times that they can be seen are when the sun is set for the observer on earth, but the junk is still in sunlight, i.e., immediately after sunset and before dawn. A little geometry shows that this period is one to two hours long, depending on exact satellite height, and the season of year at the observer's position.

It was not clear from Mr. Leatart's article what the field of view of his telescope was, but if it was 0.2 degree, his observations of flashing and non-flashing smoothly moving objects of perhaps 8th magnitude within two hours of sunset are consistent with his seeing man made space junk.

Two further pieces of work might be able to distinguish his sighting from space junk. One is to check his exact times and dates and positions with one of the professional observatories that maintain updated orbital computations on the space junk (eg. Smithsonian Institution). The other is to try to obtain a spectrum of the light of one of the sighted lights, using say an objective prism. If this spectrum is anything but the sun, Mr. Leatart may have obtained the evidence on UFOs that scientists have been waiting for.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. D. Herbison-Evans, Field Investigator

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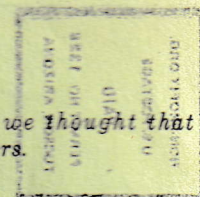
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the apro bulletin

VOL. 26, NO. 6

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

DECEMBER, 1977

UFO LANDING IN NORWAY

Fragment Fell From UFO

(Translation: A. Lidstrom)

Condensed from Suomen Ufotutkijat ry. - The UFO Research of Finland.

This is the most significant case in the history of UFO Research of Finland. It involves a strange fragment that fell from a UFO to Kallavesi Lake in August, 1964. The event was witnessed by Mr. Raimo Blomqvist (43) of Kuopio. The fragment has been studied both in Finland and in Sweden, at two universities, at four metallurgic laboratories, etc. A huge amount of documents have been accumulated: about a hundred photographs, electronmicroscope analyses, interview tapes, X-ray analysis papers, personality ratings, etc. So far every piece of information has supported Mr. Blomqvist's story. We are not aware of any natural objects or machines from which the fragment could have originated.

It was a Saturday afternoon in August, 1964 (the last or second to last Saturday) that Mr. Blomqvist and his family drove to their summer house. It was cloudy but warm. There were no winds over Kallavesi Lake. After having chopped wood for the sauna Mr. Blomqvist went for a walk on the shores of the lake. He had a strange feeling that something special was about to happen, but he couldn't figure out what it might be. He stood on the cliff for a while and at about 7 p.m. he saw a light in the northeast. The light grew in size and Mr. Blomqvist realized that it was approaching him.

The silent UFO stopped at a distance of 10 meters from the witness and hovered a couple of meters above the water. Mr. Blomqvist was surprised and excited but not afraid. He felt a force field around himself. The UFO was multicolored, oval in shape, and surrounded by a hazy light. The left edge of the object was bent upwards as if the UFO had collided with something. The light was relatively bright, but no reflections were seen on the water. But there was a vibrating movement on the water directly below the UFO. The object was three or four meters in diameter and a couple of meters high.

After 20 seconds of hovering a little fragment fell from the UFO to the shallow water. A hissing sound could be heard when it hit the water. The fragment looked as bright as a welding light before it landed. Now the yellow, green, and orange colored stripes on the UFO began to glow brightly and the UFO zoomed to the clouds within a second. The speed was tremendous since the clouds were

(See Fragment — Page Three)

A UFO seems to have landed on a newly-plowed field in Nybygda, Ringerike.

Two boys, 14 years old, Johnny Myhr from Holmestrand and Frank Sverre Mandt from Prestfoss in Sigdal, both pupils at Alm School, observed Tuesday, November 1, 1977, an unknown object on their way home from the bus parking lot.

It was a flying object coming from the North and the shape of it became sharper as it approached.

The object landed on a newly-plowed field close to the sports ground, about 100 meters from the school. The figure they observed inside the object, they can not describe in detail, but it seemed to be like a human being.

After 10 seconds the strange object lifted off and left behind three marked tracks in the ground. The object was light green, with windows, and behind one of them the shape of a man was seen.

The trustworthiness of the two boys cannot be doubted. Besides, one of the attendants at the school had also seen a shining object at the same place. And The War Defense Chief Command has reported that something unusual was observed at Gardermoen airport.

Wednesday (November 2) pictures were taken and samples of the soil were sent to the laboratory in Lillestrom to determine if they contained radioactivity.

After the samples were taken, the Norwegian UFO-expert Dag Heim was even more convinced that something very unusual must have touched down in the field. It is now ascertained that the grade of acidity in the ground where the shining object was seen by the two schoolboys, is considerably greater than in the rest of the field. It is, however, too early to assert whether a UFO has visited Asbygd.

A Swedish UFO-expert, Karl Karlson Backman, who also has visited the place and made investigations, also leaned to the view that the boys must have seen something strange. He wanted to come back later to interview the boys and other persons who possibly may have seen something strange in Asbygd the afternoon in question.

Dag Heim has sent a report to the Ringerike police office. On the basis of this and a report made at Ostre Ringerike vassal office, it will be decided whether the War Defense Office ought to be involved in the case.

The UFO case has aroused a great commotion in Ringerike and there has been quite a pilgrimage of

(See Norway — Page Two)

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Norway

(Continued from Page One)

people to Asbygdå to look at the tracks where the UFO has landed. Several persons from Norsk UFO Center (NUFOC), among them Eldbjørg Fjeldberg, have made investigations. Mrs. Fjeldberg agreed with Dag Heim that the object must have been a UFO.

The Investigation Section of NUFOC Ostlandet is sure that in the near future new interesting details will turn up. It is, however, a problem to interview the two boys as they both are deaf.

The Investigation Section is going to undertake more precise research at the place, hoping to find more details in this puzzle.

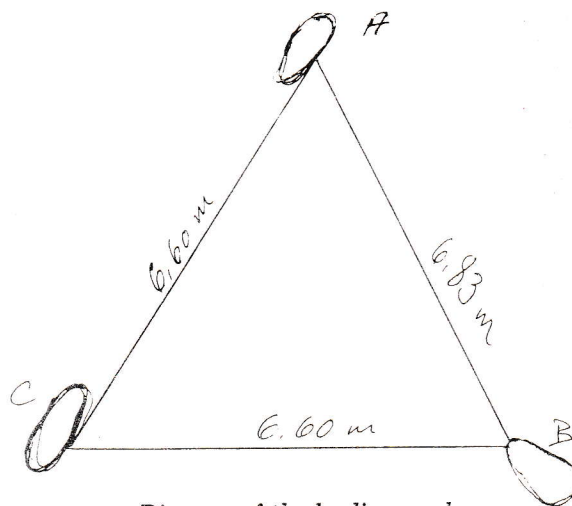


Diagram of the landing marks

Report from NUFOC Ostlandet Investigation Section, Drammen [6.11.1977]: The prints at Alm School, Asbygdå, Ringerike.

Norsk UFO Center Ostlandet was, on November 6, on the spot in question. Some photos were taken together with a gypsum cast of the best preserved print.

The result of the gypsum cast was comparatively useful. It shows that the foot-formed print was caused by an object with a curved bottom (the mark is slightly U-formed).

The length of the gypsum cast is 36 cm, at the broadest it is 14.5 cm., and at the narrowest, about 7 cm. The height is 10 cm. and is supposed to be identical with the object making the prints. The narrowest side is pointed towards the center which is common to all the prints.

The print from which the gypsum cast is made is identical to the print marked B on Mrs. Fjeldberg's sketch.

A lot of people have shown their interest in the prints. This is marked by a path up to the field.

The original conditions of the prints had been nearly obliterated on Sunday, November 6, but still one could see very distinct outlines even though the prints were veiled.

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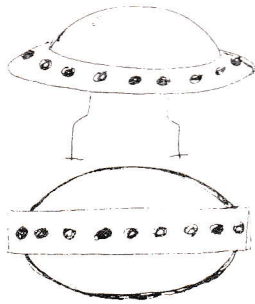
And at last a letter dated November 8 from NUFOC Ostlandet Investigation Section to the secretary of Ostre Ringerike:

The UFO-case, Ringerike-Asbygdå.

Inasmuch as the undersigned assumes that the secretary has made himself familiar with the case, the following is to be added:

It must be confirmed that tens of persons, looked on as very trustworthy, have observed

these 4 objects over Ringerike, together with two earlier mentioned boys who insist they have seen one of them land. This is supported by the prints in the ground. The undersigned, working temporarily as a policeman at Drammen police office, and officially as section leader for the NUFOC Investigation Section, have studied the prints carefully and made a gypsum cast, guided by policeman Flaaterud at Drammen Technological Criminal Section.



What the object looked like.

After further evaluation of the case, it can be concluded that an unknown flying vessel has visited Norwegian air territory and landed.

The case is recommended hereby for further investigation and is transmitted to War Defense Chief Command.

Tom R. Lemb/sign.
Section Leader
Norsk UFO Center Ostlandet

Fragment

(Continued from Page One)

at an altitude of 300 meters.

Now Mr. Blomqvist wanted to find out what had fallen to the water. The water was only 20 centimeters deep at the site of the incident. It was easy for the witness to find the fragment since it differed from the surroundings. He picked it up and put it in his pocket. He didn't say anything about the incident to his family. In February, 1975, Mr. Blomqvist met some UFO research people at Turku and so the case was finally made public.

One of the UFO research people, Mr. Mikko Toivola, took the fragment to Abo Akademi University where an X-ray analysis was performed. Professor Edelman stated that material of this sort could be found close to active volcanoes, but only at a couple of locations in the world. The fragment is definitely not a geological entity, continued Professor Edelman. An expert on

meteorites, Professor Papunen at Turku University stated that the fragment is not a meteorite. As far as iron is concerned it could be an iron meteorite, but the amount of other substances does not support the meteorite theory.

And the fragment contains some substances that have never been found in meteorites.

The fragment was 36 millimeters long before it was cut up for studies. It was 6 millimeters thick, it weighed 15 grams, and it had a density of 4 kg/dm³.

The fragment was not radioactive, but it was magnetic. There were five layers of material. In the middle there was a 2.5 millimeter thick layer of light-colored metallic iron. On both sides of the middle layer there were dark grey layers and 0.5 millimeter thick light grey layers. The thickness of the layers varied.

The contents were analyzed by mass spectrometer. According to an expert on metal studies, engineer Olavi Kiviniemi, the contents of the fragment were as follows:

The middle layer:

Mostly Fe and O

1.0% Mn

0.4% Cu

0.3% Si, V, Ti

0.1% P, Na

0.06% Sn

0.03% Cr, W, K

0.008% Ca

0.006% Ta

Other layers:

Mostly Fe and O

0.8% Zr

0.6% Mn

0.3% Si, P, K

0.2% Cu, Zn

0.1% Mg, Na

0.04% Rb

0.03% Ca, La, Ce, Nd

0.01% Sm

0.009% Pr

0.006% Pb

0.004% Sr

0.003% Ba

Aparatuses such as mass spectrometer and scanning electronmicroscope were used to perform the studies. The fragment is not a piece of ore, not of volcanic origin, not a meteorite, and not a piece of any know machine. However, nothing supernatural has been found either. The fragment has probably been affected by a very high temperature around 650 degrees Celsius. Substances like carbon and sulphur have practically disappeared, if they ever existed. The high temperature has radically reduced the amount of clues about the origins of the fragment. However, the UFO Research of Finland will continue to study the case.

BOOK REVIEW:

UFOs, the Eye, and the Camera, by Adrian Vance
(Barlenmir House, New York, \$8.95)

by Douglas Johnson

Based on the title and the cover, which identifies the author as "west coast editor of *Popular Photography*," anyone picking up *UFOs, the Eye, and the Camera* might expect an intelligent examination of the problems inherent in analyzing and interpreting photographs purported to be of UFOs, and perhaps a discussion of what well-documented UFO photos can teach us about the nature of the objects. Disappointingly, only a small portion of this book is concerned with such questions. The major portion is a mishmash of misinformation, warmed-over cases, and unfounded speculation.

Adrian Vance has apparently studied both human vision and cameras in some depth, and a chapter comparing these two systems is the high point of the book. (Most of the material in this chapter was previously published in the *Proceedings* of the 1973 MUFON Symposium.) Following this he examines several UFO photographs, concentrating on the much-discussed "Sedona photograph" and "Oregon photograph," and on a photo taken in Alaska by a Mr. Barty Andersson in 1965. In each of these three photos an anomalous object seems to have produced a number of successive images of itself (or parts of itself) within a fraction of a second — 144 images in perhaps 1/35 of a second in the case of the Sedona photo, by Vance's reckoning.

Vance argues that the multiple-image effect is best explained by assuming that the objects were somehow teleporting rapidly from one point to the next as they were being photographed. This explanation may strike some as far-fetched, and other experts doubtlessly will dispute Vance's interpretations. Some may also feel that it is unwise to postulate a mode of transportation completely unknown to science merely on the basis of three incompletely documented photographs, especially since Vance himself has apparently not examined the original negative or a first generation print for two of the three. Still, speculation has its place in science, so long as it is recognized as such. Unfortunately, Vance apparently cannot distinguish between fact, hypothesis, and pure speculation. He seems to regard any idea which pops into his head as established fact. Upon the shaky foundation of the three photographs he builds a tower of conjecture which would make Erich Von Daniken blush.

First Vance tells us that the objects photographed are time machines from the future. (He does not claim that all UFOs are time machines.) There is no clear logical connection between his assertion that the photos record objects materializing and dematerializing, and his conclusion that they are time machines. But this is just the

beginning. Vance does not hesitate to tell us how the trick is accomplished. He writes: "Present theory insists that if we push our rocket ship to the speed of light the clock will stop, and while all of earth's clocks are continuing this must mean that the rocket ship is moving into the past." By "present theory" Vance apparently refers to the special theory of relativity. If so, he should be aware that this theory states that it is impossible to push any mass to the speed of light, no matter how much energy is expended in the attempt. This limitation is *not* arbitrary; it is an integral part of the theory, and is directly linked to the time dilation effect which Vance tries to make use of, but apparently does not fully understand. The theory of relativity *does* state that as an object *approaches* the speed of light, its time will 'slow down' relative to a stationary observer. So, assuming that a craft could be accelerated to very near the speed of light, time aboard that craft would pass very slowly relative to time on earth. But this obviously would in effect result is the craft traveling into the earth's *future*, not the past as Vance suggests — since time would be passing much 'faster' on earth than aboard the craft. Neither the theory of relativity or Vance's distortion of it explain how a craft could travel into its own past.

(Incidentally, Vance does not actually postulate that the time machines accelerate to lightspeed, but rather that they "accomplish the same feat simply by moving all the matter involved in a series of small, rapid-order vibrations that would not destroy the matter. . . the experience would be one of vibrating the matter in an almost undetectable manner until the sum of all its motions equals the velocity of light at which point the sample fades from the present into the past." As an explanation this is no better than saying, "They do it by shouting, 'Shazam!'")

Vance goes on to suggest that an object can be moved into the future by reducing its temperature to absolute zero. (Well, if 'vibrating' at lightspeed sends an object into the past, then stopping all molecular motion should send an object into the future, right?) In support of this surmise, Vance tells us that a cryogenics engineer showed him photos (unpublished) of "an odd, ghost-like, UFO-type device in the room with the [cryogenics] equipment." Vance tells us: "I could make nothing of it at the time. But now I wonder if it were [sic] possibly sent [from the future] in reponse to the work of these gentlemen [the cryogenics researchers]. If they managed to freeze a sample to absolute zero and cause [sic] it to slip into the future, it might thaw out in someone's teacup, or whatever."

One might think that Vance makes such suggestions with tongue in cheek, but it is clear in reading the book that he takes his cockeyed scheme of comic-book physics very seriously. The reader is bewildered by the alacrity with which Vance leaps from one half-baked idea to another. Indeed, his train of thought seems to move in a

manner similar to the "time machines" which he sees in the three multiple-image photographs—directly from one spot to another without crossing the distance in between. He shows no inclination to allow either well-established principles of physics or the paucity of his data to in any way inhibit his imagination.

In order to support his time-traveler theory, Vance turns to history, leading the helpless reader along into a number of his research dead-ends. After quoting Ezekiel's famous vision [Ezekiel chapter 1] for six pages, Vance notes that the account does not seem to illustrate manipulation by time travelers. Besides, the Bible is internally inconsistent and is not a suitable source for such research, Vance informs the reader — who may well ask why he has been subjected to chapter one of Ezekiel in that case. (Vance adds that Thomas Paine made the same point about the unreliability of the Bible in his *The Age of Reason*. With unconscious irony Vance describes that book as "lean and muscular, dealing with the facts alone and good lesson to anyone who writes.")

Next Vance notes that Christopher Columbus was not really a very good navigator. He says, "It is curious that this most inept of sailors should land in precisely the area of two continents [sic] and cause a massive gold fever in Europe, [so] I decided to look into the case very thoroughly for evidence of time-traveler event manipulation." In search of such "evidence" Vance considers the Piri Re's map. He describes the map as "incredibly accurate" and states, "The design is at least 6,000 years old, and probably more, since that is the time when the Antarctic continent began to disappear under snow and ice." L.S. Henwood has exploded the myth that the Piri Re's map shows anything identifiable as the Antarctic coastline [in *New Horizons: Journal of the New Horizons Research Foundation*, Toronto, July 1974 issue], and exaggerated statements about the overall accuracy of the map were refuted in *The Space Gods Revealed* by Ronald Story (Harper and Row, 1976), but it seems that Vance is unaware of these developments.

Vance finally does conclude that ancient man could have produced the map unaided, but inexplicably goes on to say, "However, it also seems likely that the Turkish slave at the helm of Columbus' lead ship was either a time traveler or an agent for the [same] force. It seems only fair to say that 'the Navigator' [Columbus] couldn't find a urinal, much less a continent." Rigorous logic of this order is displayed throughout the book. Speaking of this agent from the future, Vance says, "The mission, of course, would be suicidal because the [time] traveler's own present would cease to exist, but he may have been hopeful that he and his accomplices would return to, or choose, a better time than one they had left and destroyed [through their intervention in the past]."

As a final insult to the reader's intelligence, Vance includes a chapter on the Bermuda Triangle. Quoting freely from books by such popular writers

as Charles Berlitz and Richard Weiner, (who is referred to as "an excellent researcher"), Vance says he believes that visitors from the future or other dimensions are kidnapping humans from the Triangle area. He seems to be unaware that meticulous research by Lawrence David Kuche (*The Bermuda Triangle Mystery — Solved*, Harper and Row, 1975) has revealed these books to be collections of amplified rumors and outright misinformation. He even goes so far as to repeat a rumor passed on by the late Arthur Ford that the commander of the famous flight of five Avengers which disappeared in 1945 had radioed back to his base, "Don't come after me! They look like they are from outer space!" (Vance identifies Ford, a discredited spiritualist, only as "a journalist. . . reporter, author and lecturer.")

Clearly, Vance's discernment regarding his sources of information leaves much to be desired. But based upon such claptrap he solemnly tells the reader, "On my next trip [to the Triangle area] I plan to take along a fairly complete picture book of the food I like in case these beings are not sure what people eat. And I recommend this practice to anyone traveling in the area." He concludes, "While they may frighten some people it only excites my curiosity. So, at some point in the future, I am planning an expedition to sail the Bermuda Triangle with the intent of making contact with some of these beings."

There is a great deal more wrong with this book, but suffice to say that the author would have done well to confine his discussion to the area in which he seems to have some expertise: photography. As it stands, this remarkably silly work, presented as a scientific approach to the UFO mystery, can only contribute to the widespread perception of ufology as a pseudoscience, and thus make the task of serious researchers and genuine theorists more difficult.

[December 12, 1977]

BOOK PROBLEMS PERSIST

The situation surrounding the publication and sale of the *APRO* books "Encounters with UFO Occupants" and "Abducted" continues to be fraught with frustration and confusion. To begin with, when "Encounters" was published the publisher (Berkley) failed to submit the title for listing in "Paperbound Books in Print". As a result prospective buyers were erroneously told that it was out of print.

When "Abducted" was about to be released the president of Columbia Pictures threatened Berkley with a lawsuit unless the cover art work and subtitle (close encounters of the fourth kind) were changed. Released in mid-November the first printing sold out in 30 days. As of this writing a decision has not been made to reprint. "Encounters" went out of print on Nov. 22, 1977. The publishers decided not to reprint on Dec. 1st 1977 and the rights automatically, reverted to the authors.

UFO Related Information from the FBI File

by

Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee
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Despite the eminently reasonable argument put forth by Mr. Coyne, the bureau continued its investigation through August and into September. Then the Bureau received the following letter from its Special Agent in Charge in San Francisco:²⁴

"I am transmitting herewith copies of a "restricted" letter dated September 3, 1947, which was furnished to me by . . . [name not given] . . . which letter is designated to certain Commanding Generals on the Army Air Forces from Col. R. H. Smith, Assistant Chief of Staff - Intelligence, Headquarters Air Defense Command, Mitchel Field, New York, concerning "Cooperation of FBI with AAF on Investigations of 'Flying Disc' Incidents".

"It is my understanding from recent Bureau instructions that we are to assist the Air Force Intelligence personnel in the investigation of flying disc incidents. However, it will be noted from the attached letter that it is Army interpretation that it was their intent that the Bureau would investigate those incidents of the so-called 'discs' being found on the ground and apparently not those which are observed only in flight. Further, the attention of the Bureau is respectfully called to paragraph two of this letter and to the last sentence therein which states, 'The services of the FBI were enlisted in order to relieve the numbered Air Forces of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be ash can covers, toilet seats and whatnot.

"In the first place, the instructions issued by the Army Air Forces in this letter appear to limit the type of investigations which the Bureau will be asked to handle and secondly it appears to me the wording of the last sentence in the second paragraph mentioned above is cloaked in entirely uncalled for language tending to indicate the Bureau will be asked to conduct investigations only in those cases which are not important and which are almost, in fact, ridiculous.

"The thought has occurred to me the Bureau might desire to discuss this matter further with the Army Air Forces both as to the types of investigations which we will conduct and also to object to the scurrilous wordage which, to say the least, is insulting to the Bureau in the last sentence of paragraph two."

The above letter was sent to Assistant Director D. M. Ladd, who, about a week later, provided a sort of summary of the situation regarding "flying discs" to the director, H. Hoover. The Ladd memorandum to Hoover was as follows:²⁵

"The Bureau was requested by the Air Forces Intelligence to assist in attempting to arrive at an explanation of the [flying discs]. The Air Forces indicated that the alleged sightings of flying discs might have been made by individuals of Communist sympathies for the purpose of causing mass hysteria in the United States over the fear of a secret Russian weapon. The Bureau agreed to assist in the investigation of the reported sightings, and the Field was advised in Bureau Bulletin No. 42, Series 1947, dated July 30, 1947, that they should investigate each instance which was brought to their attention of the sighting of a flying disc in order to ascertain whether or not it was a bona fide sighting, an imaginary one, or a prank. The results of the investigation conducted by the Bureau Field Offices in this matter have failed to reveal any indications of subversive individuals being involved in any of the reported sightings. [Bold emphasis by present author.]"

The Ladd memorandum then describes the "restricted" army letter obtained by the agent in San Francisco, and points out that "This letter states in substance that it was the original intent of the AC/AS-2, Headquarters, Army Air Forces that whereas the ADC would interview [bold equals underlining in Ladd's letter] responsible observers", the FBI would investigate incidents of discs on the ground. The memorandum to Hoover concluded with the following recommendation:

"It is recommended that the Bureau protest vigorously to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff-2. It is also recommended that the Bureau discontinue all activity in this field and that the Bureau Field Offices be advised to discontinue all investigations and to refer all complaints received to the Air Forces."

ASH CAN COVERS, TOILET SEATS, AND WHATNOT

Apparently the fact that no subversion had been found, when coupled with the fact that the AAF was carrying out their own interviews and restricting the FBI to useless cases, created a rather emotional response on the part of the FBI, for only two days later Hoover wrote to Major General George C. McDonald, Assistant Chief Air Staff-2 at the Pentagon the following letter:²⁶

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been requested by your office to assist in the investigation of reported sightings of flying discs.

"My attention has been called to instructions disseminated by the Air Forces relative to this matter. I have been advised that these instructions indicate that the Air Forces would interview responsible observers while the FBI would investigate incidents of discs found on the ground, thereby relieving the Air Forces of running down incidents which in many cases turned out to be 'ash can covers, toilet seats and whatnot'.

"In view of the apparent understanding by the Air Forces of the position of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this matter, I cannot permit the personnel and time of this organization to be dissipated in this manner.

"I am advising the Field Divisions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to discontinue all investigative activity regarding the reported sightings of flying discs, and am instructing them to refer all complaints received to the appropriate Air Force representative in their area.

"[signed] John Edgar Hoover, Director"

On October 1, 1947, in Bulletin #57 of that year, the FBI published the single sentence directive, *"All future reports connected with flying discs should be referred to the Air Forces and no investigative action should be taken by Bureau agents."*²⁷

The explicit reference by Hoover to the wording in the restricted Army letter shows that Hoover wanted the Army to know his agent had "penetrated" its secrecy. This, then was the intelligence "scandal" referred to in Part I; the "last straw" that caused the abrupt end of the official FBI investigations into UFO reports. However, this did not end the FBI involvement with "discs". As I have mentioned previously, agents continued to file brief reports and to interview Air Force officers and to collect UFO related information for about 16 years after this directive. Moreover, the information collected by the FBI in the following years is at least as important, if not more important, to the understanding of the governmental involvement with UFO reports as is the information collected during the period up to October 1, 1947. Information collected after October 1, 1947 will be presented in subsequent papers. However, before ending this part, I would like to present some of the interesting information contained in the FBI file that was obtained before October 1947 and also a listing of the cases filed during that period.

HOOVER'S AGENT HAD PENETRATED ARMY SECRECY

On July 18, 1947 the special agent in New Haven, Conn. wrote the following letter to the Director of the FBI:²⁸

"For the information of the Bureau - this is to advise that on July 7, 1947 Mr. —, Stamford, Conn. appeared at the Stamford Resident Agent's office and furnished the following information:

"Mr. — prefaced his remarks by stating that he is a scientist by occupation and is currently employed at the American Cyanamid Research Laboratories on West Main Street in Stamford, Conn., in the Physics Division. Mr. — further indicated that during the war he was employed at MIT, Cambridge, Mass., in the Radiation Laboratory connected with the Manhattan Project. Mr. — advised that he is thirty years of age and is a graduate of the University of Arizona.

"Mr. — stated that the topic of 'flying saucers' had caused considerable comment and concern to the present day scientists and indicated that he himself had a personal theory concerning the 'flying saucers'. Prior to advancing his own theory, Mr. — remarked that immediately after the conclusion of World War II, a friend of his, Mr. —, allegedly observed the 'flying saucers' from an observatory in Milan and Bologna, Italy. He stated that apparently at the time the 'flying saucers' had caused a little comment in Italy but that after some little publicity they immediately died out as public interest. Mr. — stated that it is quite possible that actually the 'flying saucers' could be radio controlled germ bombs or atom bombs which are circling the orbit of the earth and which could be controlled by radio and directed to land on any desired target at the specific desire of the agency or country operating the bombs. He stated that one of the items of interest which he personally has observed is the fact that the saucers have been observed in Mexico City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Halifax, Newfoundland, Paris, Milan, Bologna, and Yugoslavia as well as Albania. By placing a string around the globe of the earth it would be noticed that all of the above mentioned cities form a direct orbit or circle around the earth and would be more or less in line of any path in which the saucers could be circling."

Mr. — further stated that he had recently talked with — one of the owners of (—) company in Glenbrook, Conn., and had been informed by — that his company is making a large powerful telescope to be used in searching the stratosphere for atom bombs.

The opinion expressed in the above letter is very interesting when contrasted with public statements of scientists and others who apparently thought the discs were imaginary, illusions, misidentifications, hoaxes, etc., anything but real objects that should have concerned the scientific community. It also contains an allusion to what might have been a significant pre-Arnold sighting in Italy.

A partial listing of the good cases in the FBI files up to Oct. 1947 follows. A comparable listing could be made for historical or sociological purposes of the hoax cases. However, I have chosen not to present such a list since it would contain none of the cases that the Air Force considered important for the understanding of "flying discs", although it would contain many of the cases investigated by the FBI.

SAMPLE CASES

Cases listed by date, place, local time, and a brief description.

1945? - Germany - evening - armed forces witness saw object that approached, descended with oscillating motion.

1/16/47 - North Sea, England - 2230 - RAF Mosquito vectored and chased unidentified aircraft for 50 miles at 22,000 ft.

April, '47 - Virginia - — - meteorologists' reports of pre-May sightings of disc through theodolite.

5/5/47 - Washington State - 1530 - three witnesses saw silver object do "nose dive" and disintegrate leaving a pillar of smoke.

5/19/47 - Colorado - 1215 - three railroad employees saw silver object travelling fast; was fuzzy even with binoculars.

5/17-21/47 - Oklahoma City - 2030 - Byron Savage's report; white disklike object seen for 15-20 seconds.

6/2/47 - Rehoboth, Delaware - — - Forest Wenyon's report; air observation of a rapidly moving "jar-like" object (also Sept. 1946 sighting referred to).***

6/14/47 - Bakersfield, California - 1200 - Richard Rankin's report; many discs sighted flying in groups.

6/22/47 - Greenfield, Mass. - 1130 - rapidly moving, round, silvery-white object.

6/24/47 — Kenneth Arnold's report —

6/24/47 - Cascade Mountains - daytime - propector Johnson's report of object that affected his compass.***

6/28/47 - Nevada - 1400 - Lt. Armstrong from the air saw object traveling toward him.

6/28/47 - Alabama - 2120 - Maxwell AFB sighting by AAF personnel; "cold sober" pilots and air intelligence officers saw object travel in zig-zag course for 5 min.

6/29/47 - White Sands - 1300 - Zohn and Kauke report of object travelling rapidly near V-2 proving grounds.

6/30/47 - Grand Canyon - 0910 - Lt McGinty in aircraft reported two round grey objects traveling straight down.

7/3/47 - Maine - 1430 Astronomer Cole saw many objects cross sky rapidly.

7/4/47 - Emmet, Idaho - 2015 - United Airlines Pilot Smith and copilot saw objects from the air.

7/4/47 - Oregon - 1305 - Portland police officers and many others saw three discs flying east and two flying south.

7/6/47 - Alabama - 2045 - Staff Sergeant Livingston and many others saw rapidly moving lights; photos obtained.

7/6/47 - Hollywood, Cal. - — - several objects reported.

7/6/47 - Kansas City - 1345 - Major A. B. Browning AC/A3, Pentagon, saw bright, silver, disc-shaped object while flying at 10,000 ft. in a B-52 in CAVU weather.

7/6/47 - Fairfield, Cal. - Day - Capt. Burniston (?) of the AAF and wife saw rapidly traveling object oscillating side-to-side.

HAD OBSERVED FLYING SAUCERS FROM AN OBSERVATORY IN MILAN

7/6/47 - Fairfield, California - day - Capt. Burniston(?) of the AAF and wife saw rapidly travelling object oscillating side-to-side.

7/7/47 - Arlington, Virginia - 2300 - someone in the Office of the Air Inspector saw a rapidly moving object from his home.

7/7/47 - Phoenix - 1700 - former Naval Ordnance Laboratory employee photographed object making circles in the sky.

7/7/47 - Koshkonong, Wisconsin - 1145 - airplane instructor and student in aircraft saw object descend and fly horizontally at a speed estimated to be 6000 MPH.

7/7/47 - East Troy, Wisconsin - 1430 - AAF captain and passenger in aircraft saw object travel horizontally at a speed estimated to have been 3690 MPH.

7/8/47 - Hamilton Field, California - — - Staff Sergeant Baker reported he and several others saw three round rolling objects travelling faster than P-80's.

7/8/47 - Muroc, California - 1010 - many military personnel sighted two silvery discs followed by a third.

7/8/47 - Norfolk, Virginia - afternoon - B. Turrentine saw and photographed object rocking and spinning like a football.

7/8/47 - Mt. Baldy, California - 1550 - A. E. Moorman(?), 1st Lt. in flight squadron while flying at 20,000 feet reported flat object with no wings or vertical fin at about 35,000 feet.

7/9/47 - Grand Falls, Newfoundland - 2330 - discs reported by police officials.

7/9/47 - Boise, Idaho - 1215 - newsman Johnson after three days of air search saw a "flying disc".

7/10/47 - St. John's, Newfoundland - 2315 - several people reported to the police glowing round objects.

7/10/47 - Harmon Field, Newfoundland - 1700 - airline representatives saw disc like wagon wheel cut through clouds at 10,000 feet; photos of trail taken.

7/11/47 - Codroy, Newfoundland - 0030 - several people reported rapidly moving glowing object with a tail.

7/12/47 - Elmendorf Field, Alaska - 1830 - several officers observed grey object following land contours for several minutes.

7/20/47 - steamship near Newfoundland - 2015 - silvery reddish flashes seen as object apparently travelled and changed course numerous times.

7/20/47 - Frostburg, Maryland - 0915 - circular whitish object flying above D.S.T. broken clouds making a noise.

SMALL OBJECT — TOOK OFF AND KNOCKED HIM TO THE GROUND

7/23/47 - Harmon Field, Newfoundland - 2345 - flashing reddish light traveling rapidly at high altitude for 3 minutes.

7/29/47 - Canyon Ferry, Montana - 1205 - bright disc travelling rapidly, then hovering and fluttering and finally "melting into thin air".

7/29/47 - Hamilton Field, California - 1200 - AAF officers observed two objects travelling faster than P-80 aircraft; milky white; second zig-zagged behind first.

7/?/47 - Ft. Richardson, Alaska - --- - Two Army officers reported to the Intelligence Director seeing round rapidly moving silver object under clouds for 20 seconds.

8/?/47 - near Los Angeles - 1000 - while hiking in mountains; observer reported a small object on the ground that took off and "knocked him to the ground" (letter to the FBI).

8/3/47 - Hackensack, New Jersey - 1945 - ob- observers saw round black object moving "too rapidly to be a balloon" (FBI interview).

8/4/47 - near Boston, Massachusetts - 1600 - Airline captain and navigator saw bright orange cylindrical object blunt at both ends.

8/4/47 - Bethel, Alaska - 2200 - daylight in Alaska - pilot and copilot saw object like flying wing but no propellers or jet exhaust (FBI interview).

8/6/47 - Philadelphia - 2230 - many observers saw object like a "giant firecracker" travel at an apparent speed of several hundred MPH (FBI interviews).

8/6/47 - Myrtle Creek, Oregon - 1815 - former Navy pilot and student saw round aluminum-like object from their aircraft on two occasions about 10 minutes apart (FBI interview).

8/7/47 - Ocean Lake, Oregon - 2330 - bright disc sighted.

8/13/47 - Redmond, Washington - 0900 - Brummett and Decker reported two bright objects travelling very fast; seen eight seconds.

8/13/47 - near Twin Falls, Idaho - 0930 - country commissioner and ex-sheriff reported two discs and great height and a roaring noise.

8/13/47 - Snake River Canyon, Idaho - 1300 - A. C. Urie and sons reported structured disc-like object flying within the canyon (FBI interview).

8/14/47 - Placerville, California - 1600 - object seen that travelled rapidly and disappeared in a puff of smoke.

8/14/47 - Guam - 1040 - enlisted men saw crescent shaped objects on a zig-zag course twice as fast as plane.

8/19/47 - Twin Falls, Idaho - 2130 - residents and police officers reported groups of objects flying over city under overcast sky; very fast and glowing (FBI interviews).

9/3/47 - Oswego, Oregon - 1215 - lady and children saw "two dozen" round silver objects; platter shaped (FBI interview).

9/6/47 - Shouns, Tennessee - --- - two ob- servers reported football shaped object turning end over end in air; seen against overcast sky.

9/8/47 - Logan, Utah - 2240 - three flights of "saucers" seen by several people; yellowish-white objects circled city rapidly; seen against overcast (FBI interview).

9/11/47 - Portland, Oregon - 1715 - Portland police and many others saw silvery object travel rapidly and circle city (FBI interviews).

(Note: the next "good" report in the portion of the FBI file that I have is in early 1948, and then reports "picked up" again in 1949.)

Although in a few of the above cases the brevity of the description mirrors the brevity of the report, in most cases the above descriptions do not do justice to the amounts of information furnished by the witness(es).

Most of the above cases are in the Project Blue Book listing ("Table of Contents") in the National Archives. However, I have not found the following cases listed: 1945(?), Germany; 1/16/47, North Sea; April '47, Virginia; 5/5/47 Washington State; 5/19/47, Colorado; 5/17-21/47, Oklahoma City;

CASES COULD BE IN THE OSI SECTION

7/8/47, Norfolk, Va.; 7/8/47, Mt. Baldy, Calif.; 7/10/47, St. John's, Newfoundland; 8/6/47, Myrtle Creek, Ore.; 8/7/47, Ocean Lake, Ore.; 8/13/47, Redmond, Washington; 8/14/47, Guam; 9/6/47, Shouns, Tenn.; and 9/11/47, Portland, Ore. (Note: the absence of a listing at the beginning of the Blue Book file does not necessarily mean that a case does not exist within the microfilm record at the National Archives; cases could be contained within the Office of Special Investigations - OSI - section of the microfilm record. The OSI section has no "table of contents".)

Most of the 59 cases listed above were sufficiently detailed and reported by sufficiently reliable witnesses that it would be difficult to conclude from them that nothing unusual was being seen. Especially impressive, for example, were the 7/8/47 sightings at Muroc AFB in which several military observers signed statements that they and others saw two flights of objects, the first being of a pair of silver round or disc-like objects, and the second being the flight of a single roundish object. Unfortunately the Air Force investigation was typically brief so that a lot of potential information was lost (e.g., observers at different places on the air base should have been asked to give accurate direction and elevation angles so that the altitudes of the objects could have been estimated).

The portion of the FBI file that I have obtained contains only a couple of entries for the year 1948, showing that Hoover's effort to extricate the FBI from the UFO scene was initially successful. However, the FBI began receiving information from the Air Force again in 1949, some of which was very interesting and provided a rather unusual insight into the workings of the Air Force UFO investigation. This and other information from the FBI file will be presented in the next part of this paper.

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